

Further, during the interview, applicant discussed that there was a difference between the agglomeration process described in the present application and the coating process described in the prior art. The Examiner requested publications which describe such a difference. These publications are attached along with this response. For example, the publications describe the difference between a tumbling and mixer agglomeration which is similar to the method described in the patent application verses spraying methods which are similar to the coating methods described in the prior art. The article, "Granulation and Agglomeration by Fluidized Bed and Spray Drying Technology" specifically describes the difference between "agglomeration technology" and "the technology of coating particles". Table 8-52 from the notes from "Briquetting, Pelletizing, Extrusion of Fluid Bed/Spray Granulation" April 1998 show the difference between tumbling and mixer agglomeration and other techniques, such as, spray methods. This same table is found in "Perry's Chemical Engineers Handbook". In "Briquetting, Pelletizing, Extrusion of Fluid Bed/Spray Granulation" 1995 describes the difference in Table 23 between "tumble agglomeration", the method described in the present patent application versus "coating techniques" which are described as a totally separate technique. The notes further described these two techniques as differing between agitation methods and liquid methods.

The present claims specifically refer to an agglomeration method which is different than a coating methods described in the prior art.



Therefore, the application is now in condition for allowance.



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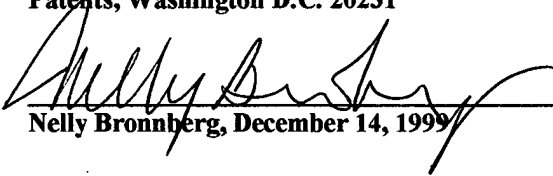


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Nelly Bronnberg, December 14, 1999

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